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ITW GSE: 2023 Product Leader of the Year

With features including automatic airflow detection and options like Intelligent Power Management, the company's 3500 PCA offers users many benefits.

Josh Smith

May 16, 2023

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ITW GSE launched its 3500 PCA in November 2022.

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The commercial aviation industry is pushing for greener, more environmentally friendly operations. These initiatives are impacting the way ground support equipment (GSE) is being designed as well as how it is being utilized on the ramp.

This push for greener GSE includes pre-conditioned air (PCA) units and ground power units (GPUs), which eliminate the need for using auxiliary power units (APUs) on aircraft.

"With the industry moving towards sustainable GSE solutions imposed by governments and local authorities, there is a need for equipment with lower energy consumption to support this," says Alberto Rocha, sales director for the Americas at ITW GSE. "The increasing focus on environmental issues is a great incentive to switch to external PCA and 400 Hz solid-state units while the aircraft is parked at the gate, instead of running the aircraft APU."



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To assist the industry in meeting environmental goals, ITW GSE launched its 3500 PCA in November 2022. Improving upon its 3400 model, the new unit offers automated aircraft detection to improve airflow utilization, a modular design to enhance ease of use and optional Intelligent Power Management to further increase power consumption efficiencies.

With features designed to reduce infrastructure costs and lower energy consumption, ITW GSE has been named the 2023 *Ground Support Worldwide* Product Leader of the Year.

Automatic Airflow Detection

A key feature of ITW GSE's 3500 PCA is its patented Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) technology, which enables stepless regulation of discharge temperatures. With this technology, the PCA unit delivers the exact amount of cooled air required.

"VFD also means energy savings because the VFD controls all main components, including compressors, fans and blowers," Rocha explains, adding this ensures a minimum total lifetime cost. "In addition to energy savings, state-of-the-art components ensure high performance at the output."

The 3500 PCA includes an integration to Visual Docking and Guiding Systems (VDGS), the airport's Building Management System (BMS) and other data collecting systems. Engineers at ITW GSE have created an algorithm that factors in different aircraft types and their needs for air, including airflow, pressure and temperature.

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"This automated aircraft type detection feature means that the PCA receives information on the arriving aircraft type as soon as the aircraft approaches the gate. From its aircraft database, the PCA already knows the exact aircraft settings," Rocha says. "Automated aircraft type detection makes the 3500 the only PCA on the market to automatically adapt its airflow to the specific aircraft type – and not just to an aircraft category. This not only helps to avoid operator errors – it also increases the PCA cooling performance by more than 50 percent and improves the passenger comfort."

Rocha notes the system offers simplified operation, adding the PCA's operator only needs to use the on and off function. More importantly, Rocha notes the equipment automatically calibrates itself to deliver the exact airflow and temperature required to maintain a comfortable aircraft temperature for passengers.

Modular Design

ITW GSE's 3500 PCA has improved on the modular design of its 3400 PCA model.

By utilizing this design, cooling and optional heater modules can be quickly swapped out, which helps keep aircraft turnarounds on schedule.

According to Rocha, the modular design also assists with spare part inventories.

When components need to be replaced, all parts, such as the self-containing cooling modules, condenser fans and main blower, can be replaced without removing the PCA unit from the

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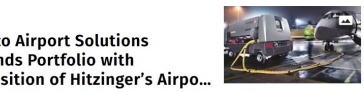


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passenger boarding bridge, he says. The modular design also enables quick cleaning. Once the cooling modules have been pulled out, the internal plenum and stainless steel drain pan are accessible.

In the event a module is not working, the PCA does not shut down entirely. Rather, explains Rocha, the unit's software will identify the non-operating module and spread the cooling demand to the other modules.

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"When you have a system that has multiple modules, you can actually take one out and continue to operate with what's remaining in the system while you repair the other one," Rocha says, adding customer feedback on this feature has been very positive.

As an option, the 3500 can also utilize a built-in 400 Hz GPU. Integrating the GPU with the PCA means saving space and reducing the weight under the passenger boarding bridge, Rocha explains.

"Consequently, instead of having two boxes that communicate and share power, the ITW GSE 3500 is a single enclosure that controls the complete system, which makes it easier to install and consequently lowers infrastructure costs," he says. "This makes it the ideal solution for narrow-body contact gates and refurbished gates."

IPM and EcoGate

The company's Intelligent Power Management (IPM) solution is available as an option for the 3500 PCA.

"The 3500 works perfectly well as a PCA without IPM. But in order to exploit the full, intelligent potential of the 3500, you need IPM," Rocha says. "IPM is the brains behind the EcoGate system and it's hosted in the ITW GSE 3500 PCA. With IPM, all ITW GSE equipment can be powered from a single power line running from the gate's power supply to the 3500 PCA.

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"From there, IPM allocates power dynamically to the different units – always prioritizing the needs of GPUs, while ensuring that total power capacity is not exceeded."

With IPM capabilities, the PCA is able to monitor all connected equipment. It adjusts the PCA's power consumption to stay below the preset current limit of the complete gate system, which ensures that all on-ground electrical needs can be supplied by the connected GPU.

"This means that the aircraft is serviced, and the combined power consumption of the PCA and GPU never exceeds the installed power capacity at the gate," Rocha says.

Additional EcoGate-compatible equipment, such as a PCA hose retriever or eGSE charger, can also utilize the IPM.

"It is a whole new environment with this technology, where before they had to run individual feeds for each product, now it's just feed one and then that one controls the whole power consumption for the other accessories," Rocha says.

Units in Demand

According to ITW GSE, the 3500 PCA is already in great demand globally from airlines, airports and passenger boarding bridge manufacturers. Rocha credits this demand to the unit's modular design, which allows ITW to scale PCAs to accommodate any climate and any commercial aircraft.

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The 3500 is produced at ITW GSE facilities in Palmetto, Florida, in the United States and Odense, Denmark.

"The demand for PCAs is really taking off especially in the Americas, and the first PCA 3500s will be supplied as of summer 2023," Rocha says, noting units will be delivered to Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) and San Diego International Airport (SAN).

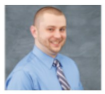
"The 3500 is a demonstration of our commitment to supplying the aviation industry with the cleanest, most reliable and cost-effective GSE systems available," Rocha concludes.



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About the Author
Josh Smith | Editor

Josh Smith served as editor of *Ground Support Worldwide* as editor from 2016 through 2024. He oversaw production of the print magazine, created *GSW*'s newsletters on a daily basis, and updated the latest news on AviationPros.com.

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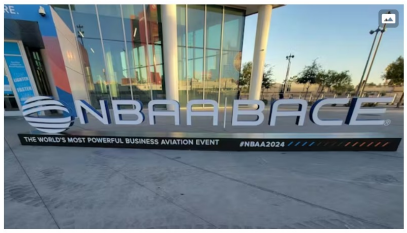
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Oct. 28, 2024



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7400 JetEx eGPU

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dnata Adds 14 Electric Ground Power Units to Dubai Fleet

This new equipment will handle 33 percent of all GPU utilization at the world's busiest international airport.

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Scenes from GSE Expo Europe 2024



This photo gallery offers a look at the equipment on display during the GSE Expo Europe, which took place is Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 17-19.

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ITW GSE 7400 400 Hz eGPU



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ITW GSE

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7400 eGPU



ITW GSE has a complete range of battery driven eGPUs that can power any aircraft, from turboprop to widebody. Users do not need to worry about charging because ITW GSE's EcoGate...

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Solving Electric Infrastructure Challenges



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AviationPros Podcast: eGSE and Power Solutions with ITW GSE

Alberto Rocha, director of sales – the Americas at ITW GSE, joins Ground Support Worldwide editor Josh Smith to discuss the latest battery technologies enabling the electrification...

Josh Smith

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Hydrogen GPU Developed by Delft Scale-up Tested at Schiphol

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Super Battery Being Tested at Schiphol: A World First at the Airport

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Schiphol

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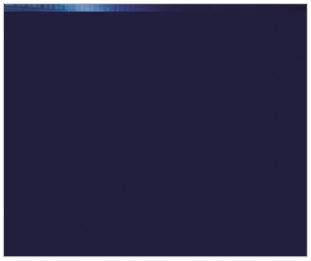
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Synaptic Aviation Launches Audio AI Solution for Ground Operations

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Synaptic Aviation

June 26, 2024





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Dynell to Showcase Hydrogen- and Battery-Powered GPUs at GSE Expo Europe

Dynell will officially introduce its DHM 090 model hydrogen GPU during the GSE Expo Europe in Lisbon. Boasting a storable power of 350kWh for 90kVA operation, this breakthrough...

June 18, 2024



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DHM 090 Hydrogen GPU

Dynell's DHM 090 model hydrogen GPU boasts a storable power of 350kWh for 90kVA operation. This breakthrough revolutionizes GPU applications with efficient, sustainable energy...

Dynell

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DEM 090 Electric GPU

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Japan Airlines Introduces First Lithium-Ion Battery-Powered Ground Power Unit at Matsuyama Airport



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Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL)

May 20, 2024

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ESS Technology Takes Off at Schiphol to Decarbonize Air Transportation

The ESS system will enable Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to phase-out polluting diesel ground power units that currently supply electrical power to aircraft while parked at airport...

ESS Inc.

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April 9, 2024



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2024 Ground Support Worldwide Leaders of the Year

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Mario Pierobon

Feb. 1, 2024



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Mercury GSE helped ensure seamless ground operations at San Francisco International Airport throughout the duration of the APEC Conference by supplying Alliance Ground International...

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FlyTek Showcases GPUs at the International GSE Expo 2023

Jay Mukhtar, business operations manager with FlyTek GSE, speaks on their line of ground power units (GPU) released early last year from the floor of the 2023 International GSE...

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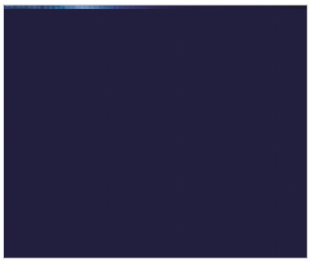
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The premier event dedicated to ground support equipment returns to Las Vegas Sept. 26-28.

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Sept. 5, 2023



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A Digital 'Mule' for Hydraulic Systems Testing



FlyTek HPU features touchscreen, remote troubleshooting and more.

Rebecca Kanable

May 17, 2023

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The Benefit of Uniting Ground Power and Conditioned Air



Guinault's GF15 Combo model combines the functions of a GPU and ACU into one unit designed to lower emissions and operating costs.

Rebecca Kanable

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2023 Product Leader of the Year: ITW GSE

ITW GSE's 3500 PCA features automatic airflow detection and options like Intelligent Power Management.

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Aviation Battery Systems

March 8, 2023



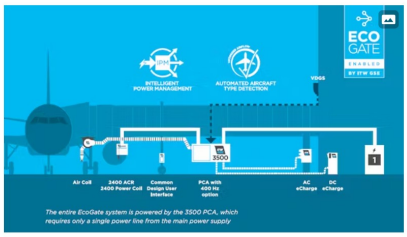
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ITW GSE Launches EcoGate Technology

The solution was developed to help airports achieve efficiencies that can only be realized by linking gate equipment into an integrated, intelligent system.

ITW GSE

Feb. 28, 2023

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ESS Inc. Lands Energy Storage at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to Accelerate Air Industry Decarbonization

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ESS Inc.

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Concessionaire & Retail

SAN and The East Village Brewing Company Collaborate to Release Beers Made from Purified Condensate

The water used in the beers is condensate that dripped from the bottom of air conditioning units attached to jet bridges at SAN.

San Diego International Airport (SAN)

Dec. 14, 2022



Defense

$482M Defense Contract for Melville Maker of Ground Power Units

A Melville maker of ground power units for aircraft has won a nearly half-billion dollar, 10-year contract from the Defense Department after a lengthy pursuit.

Aviation Ground Equipment Corp.

Dec. 7, 2022



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3500 PCA

The ITW GSE 3500 PCA automatically adapts its airflow to the specific aircraft type – and not just to an aircraft category. This PCA's innovative technology gives airports the...

ITW GSE

Nov. 17, 2022



Passenger Loading Systems, Boarding Bridges, Stairs & Jetways

Dabico Corporation Signs Agreement to Acquire A-Bridge, LLC



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Dabico Airport Solutions

Nov. 16, 2022

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ITW GSE Showcases GPU, PCA Technology at Open House



Alberto Rocha, director of sales - The Americas at ITW GSE, highlights the company's latest GPU and PCA developments during its 2022 Open House.

Josh Smith

Nov. 15, 2022

GSE

Green Solutions



How GSE manufacturers are bringing more sustainability to ground handling.

Josh Smith

Oct. 20, 2022

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JBT Expands Beyond eGSE



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Oct. 20, 2022



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ITW Pilots Mark II at JFK

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Oct. 20, 2022



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400Hz Global SMART Connector

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Avro GSE Launches Endura Cart: A Durable, Efficient Baggage Transport

Avro GSE is proud to launch the Endura Cart—a durable baggage transport solution. Designed for efficiency, it features a rust-resistant finish, smooth handling, and advanced safety innovations. Optimize your ground operations with Endura Cart!



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

PCA Load Bank

This Load Bank is a pre-conditioned air tester designed to be utilized as a maintenance analyzing tool by GSE/HVAC technicians. The Load Bank is used to determine end of hose ...

HALL Technical Services, LLC

Oct. 19, 2022



GSE Parts & Components

Airport Ground Support 400 Hz and Custom Bulk Cable

Philatron Wire & Cable manufactures Airport Ground Support 400 Hz and custom bulk cable and cable assemblies with molded connectors. They are UL listed for extra safety.

Philatron Wire & Cable

Oct. 18, 2022



GSE Parts & Components

Aviation Ground Support Cables

Philatron Wire and Cable manufacturers a complete line of Aviation Ground Support Cables made with its new anti-corking design. This full line of ground



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Aviation Battery Systems Announces Milestone Delivery of 2,000th StartStick GPU

ABS' GPUs service a wide range of fixed and rotary wing aircraft models and allow ease of field and ramp operations as well as maximum aircraft availability.

Aviation Battery Systems

Oct. 5, 2022



support assemblies are...

Philatron Wire & Cable

Oct. 18, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Aviation Battery Systems

Designed to elevate your operations, StartStick introduces a suite of versatile benefits that redefine how industries approach ground power solutions.

Oct. 5, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

ALB-I-56DW Unit

The reactive ALB-I-56DW unit is unique testing equipment for civilian and military applications. It allows an operator to perform an extensive load test and capture a real-time...

DEKAL Load Banks L.L.C.

Aug. 11, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

PCAT Load Bank

The PCAT Load Bank is a maintenance testing device designed to help determine end of hose discharge status on any PCA unit. It can be used without the aircraft present.

HALL Technical Services, LLC

Aug. 11, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

P3X Global Connector



PAGE GSE will introduce its most advanced molded connector ever made, the P3X Global Connector. The P3X has molded-in LEDs that allow operators to verify when the plug is 90-percent...

PAGE GSE

Aug. 11, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Boom Air Lite



Twist Aero's Boom Air Lite is a streamlined version of the company's proprietary Boom Air Hose Management System. The "Lite" version of the Boom Air product deploys 80 feet of...

Twist Aero

July 8, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Twist Aero Develops New Boom Air Product



The Boom Air Lite is a streamlined version of the company's proprietary Boom Air Hose Management System.

Twist Aero

July 8, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

ITW GSE Introduces 3500 PCA



Utilizing automated aircraft type detection technology, the 3500 PCA is able to optimize airflow.

ITW GSE

July 7, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Bertoli

June 30, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Reducing Weight to Improve Safety and Productivity

By using lighter materials for its PCA Super Hose, ITW GSE found a way to enhance ease-of-use for ground handlers on the ramp.

Josh Smith

June 8, 2022





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GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Dabico Airport Solutions Launches New 400Hz, Operations Management Systems

The solutions include a 400Hz battery-powered ground power unit for aircraft, the Dabico 400Hz-eGPU; a motor-driven 400Hz cable management system, the Dabico 400Hz Jet Cable Friend...

Dabico Airport Solutions

May 17, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

ITW GSE Ships 100th eGPU

ITW GSE recently shipped the 100th battery powered 400 Hz eGPU out of the 90 kVA production line at its DK facility.

ITW GSE

May 3, 2022



GSE Parts & Components

Attachable and Molded GSE Cable Assemblies

U.S. Airmotive GSE cable assemblies for AC and DC applications feature silver-plated copper alloy contacts and military-qualified cable. Connectors include an insulating sleeve...

U.S. Airmotive GSE

April 21, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

400Hz Resistive and Reactive Load Bank

MCM Engineering 400Hz load banks are essential to the proper and complete testing of any ground power source. Built for decades of dependable use, the enclosure and controls can...

MCM Engineering, Inc.

April 20, 2022





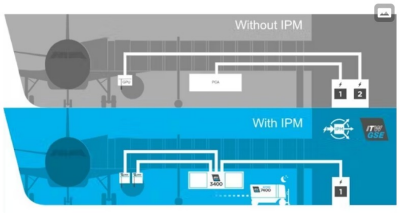
GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

TUG TMD Air Starts

TUG TMD Air Starts offer 150 to 270 pounds of continuous airflow per minute. The TUG TMD line is equipped with standard features, including on-demand automatic engine throttle...

Textron GSE

April 20, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Intelligent Power Management

IPM is a complete gate system allowing airports to utilize their gate power infrastructure smarter, especially for airports that have reached their power capacity limits. The ...

ITW GSE

April 12, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

GF15 Combo Unit

The Guinault GF15 Combo Unit combined air conditioning units/400 Hz are designed to replace an aircraft's APU and maintain the correct temperature in the cockpit and cabin during...

Guinault

March 22, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

GB45/20 Compact Ground Power Unit



Specially designed at conception for military use, the Guinault compact ground power units are the perfect solution for providing 400 Hz or 28 VDC electrical power for regional...

Guinault

March 22, 2022

Green / Alternative Energy GSE

Battery Ground Power Unit



The Guinault Battery Ground Power Unit ensures the supply of electrical power to aircraft up to code C (A320/B737) in the most extreme environments.

Guinault

March 22, 2022

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Trial with New Electric Ground Equipment at Schiphol



Schiphol, together with KLM Equipment Services, is conducting a trial with new electric ground equipment for handling large types of aircraft, also known as wide-body planes. ...

Royal Schiphol Group

March 11, 2022

Green / Alternative Energy GSE

An Increased Range of eGPUs



With the introduction of its 180 kVA unit, ITW GSE's line of battery-powered GPUs can service aircraft from business jets to narrow- and wide-body airplanes.

Josh Smith

Jan. 26, 2022



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

180 kVA eGPU

ITW GSE has added a 180 kVA, 400 Hz model, including a 140 kVA model off the same platform, to its line of battery-powered eGPUs. The new and more powerful eGPUs are especially...

ITW GSE

Jan. 25, 2022

Green / Alternative Energy GSE

Goldhofer's Green Focus on Display at GSE Expo

The manufacturer and its partners highlighted a number of eGSE and related technology offerings aimed at reducing emissions on the ramp.

Josh Smith

Nov. 19, 2021





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Green / Alternative Energy GSE

ITW GSE's Vision for a Greener Tomorrow

A "greeen" environment is important to ITW GSE. If we stand together, we can achieve more in our efforts to reduce diesel and fossil fuel. ITW GSE's clean, reliable and cost-efficient...

ITW GSE

Nov. 4, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

28V DC Ground Power Unit

Current Power LLC is a leading manufacturer of 28V DC power supplies for corporate, military and commercial customers. The company is known most for its 600 and 400 amp mobile...

Current Power LLC

Oct. 22, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

400Hz Phase Analyzer

MCM Power Analyzer is an easy way to test aircraft cables and the 400 Hz power source. Sturdy and lightweight, machined anodized aluminum is made to be stepped on to make insertion...

MCM Engineering, Inc.

Oct. 22, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

PAGE GSE at the 2021 International GSE Expo

Dale Miller, VP of sales at PAGE GSE, demonstrates his company's independent interlock with LED indication to verify GPU cables are properly inserted and power is flowing correctly...

Josh Smith

Oct. 21, 2021





GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Proper Methods for PCA Maintenance

A well maintained pre-conditioned air unit supplies adequate air volume and temperature while aircraft are on the ground.

Tim Fox

Oct. 14, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Reduced Ramp Emissions with ITW eGPUs

With a need to meet existing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements in California – as well as Texas, United Airlines turned to ITW GSE's 7400 electric ground power...

Josh Smith

Oct. 14, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

UFC-45M

Unitron's UFC-45M is a solid-state mobile ground power unit that has one of the lightest weight-to-power ratios in the market. It is designed to be easily maneuvered by a single...

Unitron Power Systems

Oct. 13, 2021



GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

400HZ Single Jacket Cable



This 400Hz Single Jacket Cable Assembly is UL-listed and offers a double-belted, reinforced neoprene jacket and +125°C-rated flame-resistant conductors to help prevent overheating...

Philatron Wire & Cable

Oct. 13, 2021

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

Aircraft 400Hz Alternator



WEG 400Hz alternators are especially designed for aviation ground power units driven by reciprocating engines. The robust and compact flying lead configuration allows for seamless...

WEG Electric Corp.

Oct. 13, 2021

GPUs, PCAs, Power Carts & Accessories

L-100D Load Bank



This 400Hz 100kW load bank is designed for testing aircraft ground power units. The load bank has eight different loads and full load can run indefinitely. The unit only weighs...

Oct. 13, 2021

GSE

Scenes from the 2021 International GSE Expo



A look at the equipment on display during the 2021 International GSE Expo, presented by Ground Support Worldwide and IAEMA.

Oct. 12, 2021

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